

What is Claim d is:

1. A closed loop postage metering system comprising:
a meter provider infrastructure including a meter database;
a postal infrastructure in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure, the postal infrastructure including equipment and processes for submission, processing, transporting and delivery of a mail piece;
a mailer system in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure and the postal infrastructure, the mailer system including a postage meter, the postage meter accounting for and printing postage value for the mail piece and printing on the mail piece information identifying services requested for the mail piece;
wherein the postal infrastructure determines an adjusted postage value for the mail piece based on the occurrence of events related to the requested services during the processing the mail piece; and
wherein the postal infrastructure sends the adjusted postage value to the meter for the meter to account for the adjusted postage value.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the meter provider infrastructure includes an events database and the postal infrastructure includes a planned events database and a transaction database used during the processing of the mail items.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the requested services are conditioned on the occurrence of at least one certain event.
4. A method for processing mail items, the method comprising the steps of:
creating a mail piece;
creating a list of planned events associated with the mail piece;

creating parameters and decision functions associated with the planned events;
printing on the mail piece by a postage meter mail piece information including a unique identification of the mail piece, evidence of postage payment identification of the postage meter and services requested for the mailpiece;
inducting the mail piece into a postal infrastructure;
scanning the mail piece to determine if one of the planned events has occurred;
if a planned event has occurred obtaining the mail piece information with sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including identification of the postage meter; and
sending a message to the meter relating to the occurrence of the planned event, the message including the mail piece information.

5. The method of claim 3 comprising the further step of:
accounting by the meter for the occurrence of the planned event.
6. The method of claim 3 comprising the further steps of:
if a planned event has not occurred obtaining the mail piece information with sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including identification of the postage meter;
sending a message to the meter relating to the non-occurrence of the planned event; and
accounting by the meter for the non-occurrence of the planned event.
7. A method for managing postal workshare discounts, the method comprising the steps of:
prepare a batch of mail in a manner intended for the batch of mail to qualify for certain postal workshare discounts;
applying at least one of a unique mail piece identification or unique batch identification on each mail piece in the batch of mail;

inducting the batch of mail for postal processing;
accounting in a meter for payment for the batch of mail based on an estimated
workshare discount and submitting the payment;
determining during the postal processing the actual workshare discount that
the batch of mail is entitled to; and
sending a correction discount amount to the meter to update the accounting in
the meter.